THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : Delhi Administration have intimated that during last six months (Sept., 89 to February, 90) 70173 vehicles were inspected by the Directorate of Transportation and out of these, 19071 were found unroadworthy.

Statehood to Pondicherry

1923. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to grant statehood to the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the political parties in the State have demanded statehood and the demand has the support of the people of that State; and

(c) if so, by when the decision for grant of statehood to Pondicherry is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry has passed Resolution demanding statehood for the Union Territory. The Government of India have noted the Resolution.

U.P. Government on construction near Babri Masjid

1924. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.P. Government has clearly stated that the construction near Babri Masjid is illegal and no permission has been given by the Development Authority to Vishwa Hindu Parishad for construction of Ram Janma Bhoomi temple;

(b) whether as per the Prime Minister's statement a Committee has been set up to go into the dispute relating to the Babri Masjid Ram Janam Bhoomi; and

(c) what action Government have taken in regard to the continued statement by Vishwa Hindu Parishad for construction of Ram Janma Bhoomi temple in the disputed area ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) No such report has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Recently, the Central Government constituted a Committee comprising Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Union Finance Minister, Shri George Fernandes, Union Railway Minister, and Shri Mukhtar Anis, Health Minister of Government of Uttar Pradesh to hold consultations with the various groups to find an amicable solution to the dispute. It is the considered view of the Government that this issue can be resolved in a spirit of mutual accommodation by building a national consensus which is essential for preserving the emotional unity of the country.

Media in Kashmir Valley

1925. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that media in the Kashmir Valley is in bad shape and the 32 vernacular newspapers published from Kashmir Valley suspended their publication because of the repressive measures adopted by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir; and